



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/723,640      | 11/28/2000  | Anton Tams           | 18584-00002         | 6490             |

7590 06/03/2005  
John S. Beulick  
Amstrong Teasdale, LLP.  
One Metropolitan Sq., Suite 2600  
St. Louis, MO 63102

EXAMINER

BACKER, FIRMIN

|          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

3621

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                               |                             |  |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | Application No.<br>09/723,640 | Applicant(s)<br>TAMS ET AL. |  |
|                              | Examiner<br>Firmin Backer     | Art Unit<br>3621            |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-70 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-70 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
     If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:  
         1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
         2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
         3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
     \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
     a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)            | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>6</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other:  |

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005 has been entered.

***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-70 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Joseph (U.S. Patent Application Pub. 2001/0034690) in view of Sehr (U.S. PG Pub No. 2002/0100803) further in view of Rosenblatt (U.S. Patent No. 6,711,548).

Art Unit: 3621

5. As per claims 1, 9, 17, 21, 30, 38, 43, 51, 58, 65, Joseph teaches a method/computer program/apparatus (*a leasing system and method*) for operating a computer (*web server, 10*) to facilitate/initiate a lease transaction (*facilitating transfer of vehicle leases*), (*see abstract, figs 1, 2, 3, and 11, pages 1 paragraph 006, 2 paragraph 0022, 0023*) comprising providing a database (*database page 40*) for storing information relating to a plurality of equipment (*vehicle information*) for lease including specifications for each piece of equipment and if the equipment is currently being leased the terms of the lease (*see paragraphs 0010, 0030*), prompting (*presenting individual/customer with computer generated buttons*) a customer (*user, 356*) to select (*select*) a lease transaction (*lease, buy*) type for a specific type of equipment (*vehicle*) to be leased (*see fig 1, page 2 paragraph 0023, 0024*), prompting the customer (*directed to a screen page 22 at which customer/owner is prompted*) to provide information including criteria (*enter information*) required to generate a one document (*modify lease*) for the selected lease transaction type (*see page 2 paragraph 0024, 0025*) and generating (*linking user*) the document/term sheet (*modify lease*) using the customer provided information (*see page 2 paragraph 0026, 0027*), matching the customer provided information with the equipment information stored within the database by applying predetermined search rules (*search criteria*) (*see paragraph 0010*) receiving information entered by a lessor (*lease owner*) to modify the customer provided information for generating a document (*see paragraph 0026*), display search results including each piece of equipment matching the customer provided information, selecting by the customer a piece of equipment from the displayed search result (*see paragraphs 0010, 0030*), posting the generated document such that the customer and the lessor can view the document and document data is information relating to the generation of the document including

Art Unit: 3621

historical drafts of the document each author of the historical drafts and modification dates (*see paragraphs 0040, 0042, 0043*) and tracking tasks to be performed, dates for performance and parties responsible for performing the tasks as set forth in terms and conditions of the generated document including at least one of inspecting the customer selected piece of equipment including, signing the generated document and meeting regarding the lease transaction (*see paragraphs 0046, 0047, 0048*). Joseph fail to teach generating the at least one document using the modified customer provided information and the customer selected piece of equipment. the at least one document including terms and conditions proposed by the lessor to the customer for leasing the customer selected piece of equipment to the customer by the lessor. However, Sehr teach generating the at least one document using the modified customer provided information and the customer selected piece of equipment. the at least one document including terms and conditions proposed by the lessor to the customer for leasing the customer selected piece of equipment to the customer by the lessor (*see paragraph 0118*). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the inventive concept of Joseph to include Sehr's generating the at least one document using the modified customer provided information and the customer selected piece of equipment the at least one document including terms and conditions proposed by the lessor to the customer for leasing the customer selected piece of equipment to the customer by the lessor because this would ensure understanding between the lessor and the lessee. The combination of Joseph and Sehr fail to teach an inventive concept related to leasing of aircraft including the type of aircraft. However. Rosenblatt teach an inventive concept related to leasing of aircraft including the type of aircraft (*see abstract and fig 1*). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art

Art Unit: 3621

at the time the invention was made to modify the inventive combination of Joseph and Sehr et al to include Rosenblatt inventive concept related to leasing of aircraft including the type of aircraft because this would provide a more flexible system that can be used for a variety of leasing equipment and program.

6. As per claims 2, 10, 31 44, 51, 59, Joseph teaches a method wherein prompting a customer to select a lease transaction type comprises displaying a computer generated screen listing (*main menu page 20*) a plurality of lease transaction type selections (*see fig 1 page 2 paragraph, 0024*).

7. As per claims 3, 11, 24, 32, 39, 40, 45, 52, 60, Joseph teaches a method wherein the lease transaction type selections comprise at least one of a lease extension, a lease, and a purchase lease back agreement (*see fig 1 page 2 paragraph 0029*).

8. As per claims 4, 12, 33, 25, 46, 53, 61, Joseph teaches a method wherein for a lease extension, prompting the customer to provide information required to generate at least one document comprises displaying information related to at least one lease to the customer (*see fig 2 paragraph 0026, 0029*).

9. As per claims 5, 13, 26, 34, 47, 54, 62, Joseph teaches a method wherein prompting the customer to provide information required to generate at least one document comprises displaying

Art Unit: 3621

a computer generated screen listing a plurality of equipment criteria and delivery requirements (*see page 3 paragraph 0030*).

10. As per claims 6, 14, 27, 35, 41, 48, 56, 63, Joseph teaches a method further comprising the steps of searching a database to identify equipment which match criteria supplied by the customer in response to prompting the customer to provide information required to generate at least one document, and displaying to the customer at least some information relating to at least some of the equipment identified as a match from the database search (*see page 3 paragraph 0030*).

11. As per claims 7, 15, 28, 36, 49, Joseph teaches a method wherein a customer is prompted to select at least one of the identified equipment, and wherein generating the document comprises populating the selected document type/term sheet with data related to the one identified equipment (*see page 3 paragraph 0030*).

12. As per claims 8, 16, 29, 37, 42, 50, 64, 66, Joseph teaches a method wherein the equipment comprises at least one of aircraft, aircraft engines, rail cars, locomotives, ships, vehicles, and containers (*see abstract, figs 1, 2, 3, pages 1 paragraph 006, 2 paragraph 0022, 0023*).

13. As per claim 18, Joseph teaches a database further comprising data corresponding to search results from execution of the availability query (*see page 3 paragraph 0030*).

14. As per claim 19, Joseph teaches a database further comprising data corresponding to a customer desired equipment configuration (*see page 3 paragraph 0031*).

15. As per claim 20, 22, Joseph teaches system wherein the database further comprises at least one of data corresponding to an availability query submitted by a marketing executive and related to a lease transaction, data corresponding to search results from execution of the availability query, data corresponding to a marketing executive desired equipment configuration, and data corresponding to availability of equipment for lease (*see page 3 paragraph 0030, 0031*).

16. As per claim 23, Joseph teaches system wherein the server is configured to cause a screen listing a plurality of transaction type selections to be displayed at a client computer (*see paragraph 0024*).

17. As per claims 57, Joseph teaches system wherein the server is configured to cause to be displayed on a customer computer a prompt to select at least one of the identified aircraft (*see page 3 paragraph 0030*).

18. As per claim 67, Joseph teaches a computer-readable medium wherein the availability query record comprises a query number and a model (*see page 4 paragraph 0039*).



Art Unit: 3621

19. As per claim 68, Joseph teaches a computer-readable medium further comprising a record of required delivery dates comprising a query number, a delivery year, a delivery month, and a quantity (*see [age 4 paragraph 0043]*).

20. As per claim 69, Joseph teaches a computer-readable medium wherein the record of results comprises a result number, a query number, and a term sheet request (*see page 4 paragraph 0040*).

21. As per claim 70, Joseph teaches a computer-readable medium further comprising a record of availability (*see page 3 paragraph 0030*).

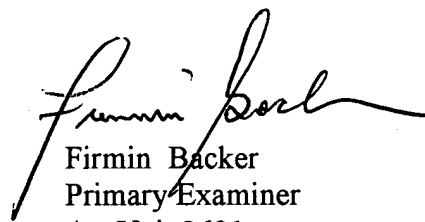
### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Firmin Backer whose telephone number is (571) 272-6703. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (571) 272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3621

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Firmin Backer  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3621

June 1, 2005